The name of the easternmost population of Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

by Edward C. Dickinson

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This population, which occurs from Iran and Kazakhstan east to China, was called *Luscinia megarhynchos golzii* Cabanis, 1873, until Dementiev (1932) substituted the name *Luscinia hafizi* Severtsov, '1872', as well as substituting *Corvus corax subcorax* Severtsov, '1872' for *Corvus corax lawrencei* [*sic*] Hume, 1873. In support he referred to Severtsov (1875) who claimed that his 'Vertical and horizontal distribution of Turkestan animals' had appeared in December 1872. Dementiev's changes were adopted, by Ripley (1964) for the nightingale and Vaurie (1962) for the raven, unchallenged until the claimed 1872 publication date was investigated by Stepanyan (1988), who concluded that 1873 (the date on the wrapper) must be maintained.

However, as regards the nightingale, Stepanyan (1990: 529, 2003: 576) did not reverse the change made by Dementiev. Nonetheless, a reversal is justified; Art. 23.9 of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (ICZN 1999) is not applicable as the condition of non-usage since 1899 is not met, because *golzii* was used until 1932. The name *golzii* first appeared in the January 1873 issue of the *Journal für Ornithologie*. Whilst it is possible that Severtsov's paper appeared prior to this, it is not certain and no firm evidence is available as to when Severtsov's work became available. It is quite widely known that the dates of publication of some early numbers of the *Journal für Ornithologie* are unreliable, see, for example, Mathews (1920), but no evidence has yet been found that *this* issue was delayed and one must therefore rely upon the 'specified date' (Art. 21, ICZN 1999), and revert to using Cabanis' name.

The case of the 'raven' is quite different. Ivanov (1969) demonstrated that the holotype of *Corvus corax subcorax* Severtsov pertains to *Corvus ruficollis*, making *subcorax* a synonym of that monotypic species and leaving *Corvus corax laurencei* Hume, 1873, available. This was discovered by Cees Roselaar and footnoted in Dickinson (2003), but overlooked by Dickinson *et al.* (2004), who were corrected by Dickinson & Wells (2006).

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Lectotype designation for *Cinnyris proteus* Rüppell, 1840 (Nectariniidae)

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In 1845, Eduard Rüppell (1845: 26) described the same sunbird taxon he had already described earlier. Rüppell (1840: 91, main text and footnote; for publication date see Sawyer 1952) had proposed a new species name *Cinnyris proteus* for what is today the south-east Sudanese, Ethiopian, Eritrean and northern Kenyan form of the Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* (Steinheimer 2005a). In the protologue, nevertheless, Rüppell (1840: 91) based the name both on an illustration in Levaillant's (1813) *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux d'Afrique* and on specimens of his own which, believing them to be similar, he described as well (first footnote, p. 91). Since all birds in Levaillant's work lack scientific binomials, any author giving a Latin binomial by direct reference to any of Levaillant's birds acted as the original describer—see Arts. 12.2.1 and 12.2.7 of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (ICZN 1999). Both Levaillant's illustration (or specifically the specimen on which it was based [(ICZN 1999: Art. 74.4)] and Rüppell's own material cited in the protologue of *proteus* (Rüppell 1840) are thus syntypic for that name.

Subsequently, it was found that Levaillant's figure was of a different subspecies from Rüppell's specimens, and that it had already been named by Linnaeus (1766: 186) as *Certhia gutturalis*, albeit with an erroneous type locality 'Brasilia' (an error copied from the otherwise very thorough description by Brisson 1760: 658–659, pl. 33, fig. 3). Today *gutturalis* Linnaeus is accepted as a valid subspecies of *Chalcomitra senegalensis* (Gadow 1884: 91, Rookmaaker 1989: 207, 327; R. J. Dowsett *in litt.* 13 January 2008).

Cinnyris proteus Rüppell, 1840 vs. *Nectarinia cruentata* Rüppell, 1845

Five years later, Rüppell (1845: 26–27, pl. 9) redescribed *proteus* based largely on the same type material as in 1840, but under the different name *cruentata* Rüppell, 1845. Rüppell's second description contains passages already given in 1840, clearly indicating that it indeed applies to the same taxon, but it nevertheless excludes reference to Levaillant (1813) and his figure. Bonaparte (1850) was the first to recognise this, but he synonymized